

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Issues a Press Release on the Occasion of Land Day, March 30, 2011

Number of Housing Units Built in the Israeli Settlements Increased Four Times in 2010 Compared with 2009

The Occasion of the Land Day

The thirtieth of March 1976 had witnessed an uprising in the territory of 1948 in defense of their land and the confiscation of 21 thousand dunums in the Galilee, Al-Muthalath, and Negev. The uprising was violently faced by Israeli occupation that led to the deaths of six young demonstrators.

Jewish Control more than 85% of the Land of Historical Palestine

About 11.5 million people live in the historical land of Palestine at end of 2009 with a 27,000 Km² estimated area. The Jewish constitute around 49.4% of the total population and utilize more than 85% of the total area of lands. The utilizing of land by the Jewish during the British Mandate was not more than 1,682 km² which constitute about 6.2%. While Arabs comprise 47.9% of the total population and utilize less than 15% of the land area, the others constitute about 2.7% of the population in the 1948' territories.

Most of the Historical Palestine Area are Open Land Controlled by Israeli Army

About 20.7% of the land of historical Palestine is cultivated areas, while the forest and jungles constitute 9.7%. The built up areas comprises about 5.7%, but the largest proportion which constitute 63.9% of the area is an open area and most of it under Israel Army

13% of the West Bank is Isolated and Confiscated by Expansion and Annexation wall

Israeli occupation confiscated hundreds of thousands dunums of land to construct the Expansion and Annexation Wall. Data showed that the isolated and confiscated area between the wall and the green line amounted to almost 733 km², which represents about 13.0% of the West Bank area. These isolated and confiscated areas include 348 km² as agricultural area, 110 km² utilized by Israeli settlements and military bases, 250 km² forests and open area and 25 km² as Palestinian Built-up area.

Jerusalem judaization: Un-controlled construction by settlers and continuity of house demolitions

Israeli violations escalated against Palestinians and their property in 2010 in Jerusalem Governorate, where the Israeli occupation authorities continued its policy of land confiscation under various pretexts. The goal of Israeli authorities is to deprive Palestinian from their lands. About 1,496 dunums have been confiscated to construct the Expansion and Annexation Wall and to expand settlements. In addition, about 2,000 orders have been issued by Israeli authorities

during the year 2009 to evacuate Palestinian houses in preparation for demolition, as the case in Bustan neighborhood in Silwan, Shu'fat, and others. During 2010, there were 31 demolished houses of total area reaching 2,572 m², inhabited by 224 Palestinian of whom 115 are children.

54.6% of settlers live in Jerusalem governorate

According to data, the number of occupied sites and Military Bases in the West Bank at the end of 2010 was 470 sites. During 2010, 7 settling outposts were constructed; around 141 sites were expanded. The concentration of settlements is in Jerusalem governorate. Settlements in Jerusalem comprise about 23.7% of total land areas forcefully confiscated for settlements in the West bank. Data indicate that the number of settlers in the West Bank reached 517,774 settlers at the end of 2009, 51.6% of them live in Jerusalem governorate (201,273 settlers are in that part of Jerusalem which was annexed by Israel in 1967). In demographic terms, the percentage of settlers to the Palestinian population in the West Bank was about 21 Settlers for each 100 Palestinian compared to 71 Settlers for each 100 Palestinian in Jerusalem governorate.

The Expansion of Settlements: Race Against Time

The construction of settlements has increased in 2010; where about 6,764 settling units were constructed over the Palestinian lands. The construction of settlements in 2010 has increased by 4 times compared with 2009 (1,703 settling units were constructed), 2,107 settling unites were constructed in 2008, and 1,471 settling units were constructed in 2007 and 1,518 in 2006.

Number of Housing Units Built in the Israeli Settlements

